




<b>Capel-le-Ferne Primary School</b>	
<b>Educational Visits Policy</b>	
Date agreed by Governors	12/03/2025
Date of next review	March 2027
Further information about policy	<p>This policy will be reviewed every 2 years and/or following any updates to national and local guidance and procedures.</p> <p>The policy is written using template provided by The Key.</p>
"Learning today for life tomorrow"	
Our Values: Independence, Creativity, Confidence, Respect	





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## 1. Aims and scope

Educational visits are activities arranged by, or on behalf of, our school, which require pupils to leave the school premises, having been authorised to do so by the headteacher or other designated member of staff.

Educational visits are a valuable way to supplement and enhance the curriculum, expand pupils’ education and provide enriching social and cultural experiences, teach life skills and promote independent learning as well as providing a foundation for lifelong learning]. They form an integral part of our approach to furthering our pupils’ education and personal growth. Furthermore, they are frequently used as a key link to work completed in school, such as a trip forming the basis of a recount in English.

This policy sets out our approach to planning and operating educational visits, to ensure the health and safety of our pupils and staff, and to make sure that our visits are available to all pupils. It sets out the roles and responsibilities of staff, pupils and volunteers when it comes to visits.

This policy applies to activities taking place within and outside of normal school hours, including weekends and holiday periods. This includes (but is not limited to):

- › Visits to places of interest in the local area
- › Day visits to places such as museums and other cultural and educational institutions
- › Sporting activities
- › Adventurous and recreational activities
- › Residential trips organised by the school
- › Trips abroad organised by the school



## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's guidance on [health and safety on educational visits](#), and the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [SEND Code of Practice](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023](#)

Sections of this policy are also based on the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#).

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

### 3.1 Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Approving staff requests for educational visits, including having final authority to approve any educational visit of less than 24 hours
- Making sure staff, including the educational visits co-ordinator, have received any necessary training
- Working with the governing board to approve residential trips of more than 24 hours

### 1.2 The educational visits co-ordinator (EVC)

Elizabeth McLatchie is the appointed EVC at our school. Their role is to:

- Oversee and guide other staff to arrange and organise educational visits
- Assess the ability of other staff to lead visits and designate a suitable trip lead for each visit
- Assess outside activity providers
- Advise the headteacher and governing board when they're approving trips
- Access the necessary training, advice and guidance
- Evaluate all visits once complete, from planning to the visit itself, and use this to improve future arrangements

### 3.2 Trip lead

Every educational visit will have 1 member of staff designated as the trip lead. The trip lead will:

- Plan the proposed visit, taking into account the health and safety risks to pupils, staff and volunteers
- Assign staff and volunteer roles, as needed
- Make sure the school has accurate and up-to-date information about the trip destination, to be used in risk assessments
- Make sure the needs of everyone taking part are considered, including co-ordinating any additional support needed
- Make sure parents and carers are given accurate information about educational visits, including any costs or necessary equipment not supplied by the school or a third party
- Communicate key details about the visit and all locations to staff, pupils and parents/carers, including roles and responsibilities and expected behaviour



- › Make sure staff are capable and able to fulfil their roles at all times while responsible for pupils and others

### 3.3 Staff

Staff have a responsibility to make sure all pupils and staff who take part in visits are kept safe and understand the proper way to prepare for trips, as well as how to act while taking part. Staff will:

- › Seek and obtain approval for all educational visits from the headteacher
- › Carry out any required risk assessments and work with the trip lead
- › Communicate with parents and carers and make sure trips are inclusive of all pupils' needs
- › Look out for the health and safety of themselves and those around them
- › Help manage pupil behaviour and discipline as required while on the visit
- › Share any concerns or worries with the trip lead and others, as appropriate

### 3.4 Parents and carers

By agreeing that pupils can take part in educational visits, parents/carers agree that they will:

- › Provide all information required, such as emergency contact details and health/medicine information if applicable
- › Sign and return consent forms and any other documentation required in a timely manner
- › Share any concerns or information about the pupil that may affect or impact their ability to safely take part in the trip
- › Understand that the school will take all measures to ensure that children are kept as safe as possible at all times on a trip and that electronic equipment, including but not limited to, mobile phones, tablets and tracking devices are not permitted

### 3.5 Designated Helpers

Volunteers attending school trips agree to:

- › Follow the directions of staff and act accordingly
- › Behave appropriately and model good behaviour for pupils
- › Report any concerns to the trip lead or other staff present as soon as possible
- › Make sure pupils under their supervision are acting safely and appropriately, and raise any issues with staff as soon as possible

### 3.6 Pupils

Our school relationship and behaviour policy also applies to all educational visits. This includes the expectation that pupils will:

- › Follow instructions given to them while on the trip
- › Dress and behave as expected for the length of the trip
- › Take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others, reporting any concerns to a staff member or trip supervisor

Pupils will always be reminded of our behaviour expectations before going off-site for a visit, and will be expected to uphold the school's behaviour policy at all times.



## 4. Planning and preparation

The decision on whether or not a visit will take place will be made by the Headteacher in collaboration with the EVC, and based on factors including:

- › Cost (including any potential cost to parents/carers)
- › Timing in the school year and any potential clashes
- › Educational purpose and value
- › Disruption to the normal running of the school
- › Health and safety considerations
- › Staff-to-pupil ratio
- › Inclusion and accessibility

As part of the planning stage, information will be gathered by staff proposing the visit, including:

- › Location and travel distance
- › Travel plans or options
- › Full cost breakdown, including multiple options where available
- › Resources, including staffing, designated helpers, and physical supplies
- › Accommodation options, where needed
- › Insurance detailed, where needed
- › Risk assessment plans and first aid provision
- › What safety measures can be put in place in order to reduce any risks

See **appendix 1** for our trip information form for the planning and approval of a visit.

In cases where a trip involves activities for more than 24 hours, an overnight stay and/or travel overseas, the headteacher will seek approval of the governing board.

Once the risk assessment has been approved by the headteacher, and the governing board where relevant, staff will communicate with parents/carers and provide trip information.

Written parental consent will be required for trips that take place outside of normal school hours, and for any trips requiring a higher-than-normal level of risk assessment.

We will evaluate each visit after its conclusion, from the planning through to the visit itself, to continually improve the planning and experience of our future visits.

### 4.1. Inclusion

All pupils, regardless of background or abilities, should be able to take part in every aspect of our school life, including visits.

#### **SEND**

If a pupil with a disability or an education, health and care (EHC) plan, or any other specific needs (e.g. medical conditions including allergies) is participating in the visit, they will have the same support that is available to them during the school day.

We will adjust the trip programme where necessary, working with parents/carers to provide additional support, making reasonable adjustments to itineraries, providing additional support staff, and other adjustments as appropriate.



Additional risk assessments may be carried out to ensure the safety of all staff and pupils.

### **Challenging behaviour**

In some cases, it may be reasonable and necessary to prevent a pupil with challenging behaviour from coming on a trip to protect their safety and the safety of the other pupils attending.

We will consider all reasonable options to help the pupil go on the trip safely, such as adapting the trip itinerary and increasing staffing numbers so the pupil can be supervised on a 1:1 basis.

## **5. Risk assessment**

We will carry out a full risk assessment at least 2 weeks before the start of all trips.

This will be completed using the school's risk assessment template which can be found on the T Drive: Central Area for School Wide Information: Risk Assessments and in **appendix 2**, and approved by [the headteacher or EVC]. Existing risk assessments are dated and kept in central location as outlined earlier in the paragraph or those provided by the destination itself might also be used to support this process. Signed risk assessments are kept securely in the school office.

The risk assessment will include any specific medical issues and allergies (for staff and pupils), specified activities to be carried out, as well as risks associated with transport to and from the destination.

Where practical, staff may make a preliminary visit to the trip destination as part of the planning and risk assessment process, but this is not mandatory.

Trip leads will raise any concerns or questions about potential risks and safety measures with the headteacher and, where appropriate, third party vendors.

Every risk assessment will be approved by the headteacher, and a copy taken on the visit and another copy left with the school. In the prolonged absence of the headteacher, the EVC is able to approve risk assessments.

### **5.1 Staff ratios and first aid**

Risk assessments for each visit will ascertain the safe level of supervision required. On all educational visits, we will make sure:

- At least 1 male and 1 female supervising adult is present (for mixed pupil groups)
- At least 1 supervising adult able to administer first aid is present on all trips
- For EYFS, at least 1 qualified paediatric first aider is present on all trips
- Appropriate first aid equipment will be taken on all trips, in accordance with the Health and Safety policy
- All supervising adults will be made aware of any medical issues or allergies at the start of the trip
- Adults without a DBS check will not be left alone with pupils at any time
- The trip lead will take regular headcounts and/or rollcalls

### **5.2 Transport**

Transportation for trips will be organised by the school. We will make sure pupils, staff and designated helpers are transported safely and efficiently, with the required first aid provision.

Unless previously agreed with parents, transport for visits will leave from, and return to, the school site.

### **5.3 Use of external organisations**



As part of the risk assessment process, we will check that any external organisations providing an activity have appropriate safety standards and liability insurance.

This includes checking that organisations hold the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge. Where an organisation does not, we will check additional details as outlined in the DfE's guidance on [health and safety on educational visits](#) to make sure it's an appropriate organisation to use.

## 6. Designated Helpers

As school policy, parents/carers are not routinely asked to support on school trips and outings. However, it will sometimes be appropriate that parents and carers may be asked to support on a trip as a designated helper to attend and support pupils alongside staff members on trips. The following are circumstances where parents/carers may be asked to support on a trip:

- › The specific needs of a pupil going on the trip, including a medical need
- › The skills a designated helper can offer, including but not limited to roles such as: a Police Officer or a School Teacher
- › Previous experience as a designated helper

Parents/carers selected to volunteer will be informed at least 2 weeks ahead of the visit, and asked to confirm their attendance. They will also be asked to confirm they agree with the expected behaviour. See **appendix 3** for our volunteer code of conduct for educational visits.

Designated helpers will receive a full induction from staff members on the day of the visit, prior to departure, including on their responsibilities, expected behaviour, the process for raising concerns, emergency procedures and contact details, and the expected timetable of the trip.

Where practical and as required by the nature of visits (i.e. when designated helpers may be left with children without staff members present), designated helpers may be asked or required to undergo safeguarding checks, including DBS checks.

At no point will designated helpers on whom no safeguarding checks have been carried out be left alone with pupils or given sole responsibility for the care of a pupil.

The only exception to the designated helper rules outlined above is in Reception, where a number of parents/carers may well be requested to support in a trip. This is due to the high levels of ratio that the school believes is needed to ensure health and safety requirements are met.

## 7. Communication and consent

Under usual circumstances, we will contact the parents and carers of pupils invited to take part in an educational visit at least 1 month before the proposed date of the trip. Communication will be via letter or email, and information provided will include the date, travel times, destination, purpose of the visit, and the size of the group attending.

We will also communicate:

- › Times and details of travel, including drop-off and pick-up times and location
- › Pupil-to-staff ratios
- › Clothing and equipment required, and whether this is provided by the school

Where required, parents/carers will be asked to provide written consent for educational visits by signing and dating a form to be returned to the school.



Because most visits during the school day will be part of the curriculum, we will not always need written consent. However, we will always inform parents/carers as above about any off-site visits, and give an opportunity for them to withdraw their child.

Parents/carers will also be asked to provide current and relevant medical information and dietary requirements, as well as emergency contact numbers where they can be reached.

In the case of overseas trips, they will be asked to provide passport information and European Health Insurance Card or UK Global Health Insurance Card information, if available.

## 8. Emergency procedures and incident reporting

Generally, emergency planning will be defined as planning for:

- Serious and unexpected risk
- Serious and life-threatening injury
- Individuals going missing
- A serious breach of safeguarding expectations

The trip leader will be familiar with these plans for each visit.

In the case of an emergency, the trip leader or other supervising adult will contact the school office. The school office will then contact parents/carers as required, and inform them of changes to plans or cancellations of trips and/or alternative travel plans. This will form part of a wider communication plan that covers how routine communications should be handled in such situations.

1 member of staff will always accompany a pupil seeking medical treatment.

In a case of a pupil being unaccounted for, the trip leader will search the area while another member of staff remains in charge of other pupils. In the unlikely event that a pupil cannot be found within 30 minutes, the trip leader will contact the school office who will notify the parents/carers. The trip leader will then contact the police and provide them with the relevant information so they can take over the search, staying with them to comfort the pupil when found. The remaining staff and adults will return to the school with the rest of the pupils.

All incidents and accidents will be reported in line with our health and safety policy, including required reporting to Ofsted and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Smaller incidents, accidents or near misses that do not require external reporting will still be covered by an internal report, to include steps that can be taken in the future to avoid similar incidents.

There will also be a clear process for evaluating all visits and trips once they have been concluded from the planning through to the visit itself. This will help with evaluating whether planning worked and to learn from any incidents that took place.

## 9. Trip Attendance

Attendance on a school trip is important for a variety of reasons. Where parents/carers have concerns about a specific trip, this should be directed to the class teacher in the first instance. If concerns can't be resolved, then advice and further discussions can be directed to the EVC and then the Headteacher.

Children not attending a school trip, due to permission not being granted by a parent/carer, must still attend school. They will be given work to complete in a different classroom. This work will be age-appropriate. Where a child is kept at home, and the child is not unwell, the absence will be marked as unauthorised.

## 10. Residential visits

The headteacher, together with the governing board, will approve all residential trips longer than 24 hours.



The planning and preparation laid out in this policy will apply to residential visits as well as 1-day visits. In addition, the trip lead will make sure:

- Staff have received any necessary training
- All necessary permissions and medical forms are obtained at least 1 month before the start of the trip
- All adults, including volunteers, have had adequate safeguarding checks. Where appropriate – e.g. if the volunteer will be in direct unsupervised contact with pupils – this will include relevant DBS checks

Parents and carers will be given information about the visit and asked for permission at least 2 months before the first day of the visit. Information shared with parents will include:

- The dates and time of departure and return to school
- The full address and contact details of the destination
- Planned activities and options
- Meal provision
- Costs and optional charges, including deposits and the date by which this must be received, in line with our charging and remissions policy (this will include information about exemptions)
- Clothing and equipment provided, and what pupils must bring themselves
- Public health requirements, including any required vaccinations
- Accommodation options and arrangements
- The names of staff attending

For visits abroad, we will make sure that any organisation providing activities holds the LOTC Quality badge or similar local accreditation. We will follow the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas travel guidance](#) and [foreign travel advice](#) when organising these visits.

## 11. Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the headteacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the full governing board.

## 12. Links with other policies

This policy links with the following policies and procedures:

- Health and safety policy
- Charging and remissions policy
- Relationship and Behaviour policy
- Child protection and Safeguarding policy
- Medical Needs Policy
- Special educational needs Information Report
- Equality information and objectives
- Accessibility plan



## Appendix 1: proposed visit planning information

To be completed by the staff member proposing the educational visit, and submitted to the EVC

**Name of staff member proposing the visit:**

**Date of request:**

**Response required by (date):**

### Proposed trip information

	TRIP INFORMATION	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Destination		
Trip date		
Travel distance		
Length of stay		
Purpose of visit / educational benefits		
Number and age of pupils		
Transportation options		
Cost breakdown, including multiple options where available		
Resources required, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Staffing</li> <li>&gt; Designated helpers</li> <li>&gt; Physical supplies</li> <li>&gt; Transportation</li> </ul>		
Accommodation options, where needed		
Insurance needed, where applicable		



## Appendix 2: risk assessment template

**Risk Assessment – to be used for all trips that are off the school site including local area trips.**

Risk Assessment for:				Location:			
Name of Risk Assessor:			Year Group:			Date:	
Adults Support:							
Outline of the trip including rough timings and activities:							
Transportation details:							
Cost including details of any subsidy from PSA/school:							
What are the hazards?		Who might be harmed and how? (Risk)		Action to reduce/eliminate risk		Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	
Seriousness (A)		Likelihood (B)		Risk =AxB			

### Appendix 3: Designated helper behaviour and code of conduct

This code of conduct sets out the expected behaviour for designated helpers attending school trips. Designated helpers should read and sign this form, showing that they understand and agree to follow this code while acting on behalf of the school. If you feel you cannot agree with this code, please speak to the lead for the school trip at the earliest opportunity and withdraw from the trip.

A copy of this form will be kept in the school office, and you may ask for a photocopy to keep for yourself.

#### Designated helpers agree to:

- Remain professional and respectful with staff and pupils at all times
- Listen to and act on instructions from staff
- Dress appropriately for the trip
- Arrive at the agreed time and remain until the trip is concluded and they are told they may leave by staff
- Pay attention to potential dangers and raise concerns with staff
- Act responsibly and demonstrate good behaviour to pupils
- Report any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a pupil to staff as soon as possible

#### Designated helpers agree not to:

- Exchange contact details with pupils unless told to by a member of staff
- Engage in physical contact with pupils unless appropriate or required
- Share inappropriate personal information (i.e. personal beliefs, religious views, relationship status)
- Use demeaning, offensive, abusive or insensitive language
- Smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs (other than those required for medical reasons) or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs (other than those required for medical reasons) for the duration of the visit
- Allow themselves to be left alone with a pupil unless previously agreed with staff
- Take photographs or record pupils without the permission of pupils and staff

As a designated helper, I have read and agree to this code of conduct, and will follow the rules set out above.

**Signed:**

**Date:**